# VIDEO

**BONNIE RAITT: The Video Collection *(PMI)***

BONNIE RAITT is too bright a star for the full glare of her talent to be captured by the slow dazzle of this rock video collection that features choice tracks from her 'Nick Of Time' and 'Luck Of The Draw' LPs. Even the added 'attraction' of having guest appearances from such luminaries as Dennis Quaid, Michael O'Keefe and piano player Bruce Hornsby fail to impress when compared to the raw bottle-necking Bonnie gives her guitar. The last thing you need to think about while listening to Bonnie's band is Bob Hoskins feeding his face on 'Have A Heart' (which was used to plug a flop film about having a heart condition called . . . erm *Heart Condition*). For best effect play with your eyes firmly shut and your soul wide open.

**Edwin Pouncey**

***Bottle-neckin' Bonnie***

**THE BOOMTOWN RATS: Live '78**
**ELO: The 'Out Of The Blue' Tour Live At Wembley**
**THIN LIZZY: Live & Dangerous**
**URIAH HEEP: Gypsy**
**(*All Hendring*)**

IN-CONCERT rock footage that has definitely started to curl at the edges.

Sir Bob's B Rats were, as far as I could figure anyway, a crack at being a more sanitised version of the Sex Pistols. Threatening they certainly weren't, borrowing from the Fab Four, Rolling Stones and just a pinch of David Bowie pantomime theatrics. Beetle-browed Bob rattles his way through his band's backlog of miserable material, bravely attempting to inject excitement into what looks today like a very tired affair. Never mind this bollocks, kids!

Jeff Lynne's more upmarket Electric Light Orchestra are, despite the impressive onstage spectacle of it all, no real thrill either. Only hardened fans could possibly enjoy this numbing display of pomp rock and pyrotechnics which goes off with a bang and ends up disappearing up its own black hole.

At least Thin Lizzy really were a rock'n'roll band and their 'Live & Dangerous' tag here is certainly warranted. Phil Lynott led Ireland's finest with the kind of Rottweiler bite in his songs that still impresses. Here were anthems that were shot straight from the hip to hit their target every time. Too bad then that he's gone for good, but this manages to capture and preserve a chunk of Thin Lizzy's greatness.

Uriah Heep are still with us, however, but how they've managed to last so long is almost beyond comprehension. 'Gypsy' regurgitates their past and (gulp) present efficiently enough but, as with ELO, only the devoted, the depraved and the desperate need check it out. Ghastly beyond belief!

**Edwin Pouncey**

PICTURE: GUS STEWART

***Phil Lynott: gone, but still dangerous . . .***

**VARIOUS: Best Of West Coast Rock Vols 1–3 *(CMP)***

DÉJÀ VU or what?! The feeling washes over you while watching this triple bill of mindless nostalgia that somewhere, some place, you've seen it all before. Perhaps when you couldn't sleep and, with nothing better to do, had to resort to staring blankly at late, late night TV where Casey Kasem or somebody was on hand to suckle at your senses. This somewhat disjointed potted history of West Coast Rock is mostly mud with a few choice diamonds thrown in to keep your eyes open. Although vintage footage of the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Buffalo Springfield and Quicksilver is marginally mind blowing, the bulk of this late '60s/early '70s flashback could have been pruned down to one *essential* volume. Keep Ry Cooder, hang on to an Eagles song even, but dump Seals & Crofts, CMP . . . Please!

**Edwin Pouncey**

**ERASURE: Abba-esque (*BMG/Mute*)**

NOW THAT it's socially acceptable to admit to liking Abba, fun-loving party band Erasure pull Bjorn, Benny, Agnetha and Frida's Scandinavian '70s pop vibe out of the closet in order to give a whole new meaning to their 'Dancing Queen' anthem.

The lads get togged up in gold lamé and straddle motorcycles on 'Lay All Your Love On Me', their mission being to give the kiss of life to Snow White! On 'Voulez Vous' they go round and round without getting anywhere, on 'SOS' playing house husband fills in much of the on-screen time, and on 'Take A Chance On Me' they slip into an off-the-shoulder number with feather boa accessories to drag the song into self-parody. Although it's carried out with enough tongue-in-cheek to choke a cart horse, French and Saunders with Raw Sex did this particular Abba piss-take miles better several years ago.

**VARIOUS: Rock Legends Vols 1–2 *(MIA)***

AN ALBERT Hall show which brings together just about every old rock star you can possibly think of. Amongst the cast are Jimmy Page, Eric Clapton, Steve Winwood, Charlie Watts, Bill Wyman, Kenny Jones and Jeff Beck.

What sounds like a two-hour ordeal on paper, however, turns out to be not such a gruelling bum-numbing experience after all; parts of this are quite moving and entertaining. Clapton and Page are particularly impressive, shouldering mean guitars and letting rip with solos that mean business. A six-pack special if ever I viewed one, but a thumping good evening in front of the box is guaranteed if guitar rock legends and their cohorts in action is your particular video bag.

**Edwin Pouncey**

**THE ASPHALT JUNGLE**
**THE PRINCE AND THE SHOWGIRL**
**SOME LIKE IT HOT**
**THE MISFITS (*All MGM/UA*)**

TONY CURTIS said kissing her was "like kissing Hitler". Marilyn Monroe – whose screen presence is celebrated with these releases – had reason to be frosty; four months' pregnant while filming *Some Like It Hot* with Curtis, she was heading towards her ninth abortion. But the torrid facts of her legend shouldn't be allowed to cloud the quality of her work.

Coming to fame via John Huston's *Asphalt Jungle* as a gangsters' moll in a seminal tale of lust and crime, she brought a rare *frisson* to the aloof staginess of Larry Olivier in *The Prince And The Showgirl*, displayed a real knack for comedy in Billy Wilder's *Some Like It Hot* and made her last screen appearance in *The Misfits* alongside Clark Gable and Montgomery Clift. All died within a matter of months of filming being completed. Marilyn Monroe: a sex symbol for sure, but a lot more besides.

**FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (*CIC*)**

MICHELLE PFEIFFER and Al Pacino are the inappropriately glamorous couple who fall in love while working at a New York diner. Proficient, but over-long and unconvincing.

**HUSH A BYE BABY (*Connoisseur*)**

BEWIGGED SINEAD O'Connor stars in an affecting low budget movie set in Catholic Derry at the time of the supergrass trials. Sinead's performance bodes well for her future career and this is a tenderly observed look at adolescence, pregnancy and abortion.

**Gavin Martin**